



THE FEDERATED SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS OF ULSTER COUNTY

Mailing: PO Box 3134, Kingston, NY 12402

Physical: 710 Springtown Road, Tillson

www.fscuc.org - <https://www.facebook.com/fscuc.org/>

RELEASED APRIL 4, 2022

URGENT MATTER - TIME SENSITIVE

We are writing to inform you of our opposition to proposed legislation in bills A5728/S5058, and ask for your assistance in stopping them from further passage to allow redress.

As you may know the bills are proposed with the stated purpose to: "Prohibit the use of lead ammunition in the taking of wildlife on state-owned land and on land contributing surface water to the New York city water supply"

NYS Senate Bill S5058: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s5058>

NYS Assembly Bill A5728: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A5728>

The Federated Sportsmen's Clubs of Ulster County is an organization comprised of 32 independent member organizations whose member roles at last census total in excess of 4,900 individual members. These individual members are NY residents, most of whom reside Ulster County, with a small number living in surrounding counties. We are prepared to circulate a petition supporting the following position if required.

Our organization opposes the bills for the following reasons:

1-There is currently insufficient to non-existent non-lead ammunition available in the marketplace. So effectively the proposed legislation would create a hardship and/or the prevention of participation in an otherwise legal activity. It should be noted that for many hunters, wild game is a meaningful part of their family's food supply.

2-Due to concern of ammunition bans and supply sparsity from increased demand, many hunters have increased their stock of ammunition. There is no provision in the proposed legislation to allow for the current stock of anyone having already purchased ammunition that would be banned by this law.

3-Even with reasonably small stock of ammunition, the proposed timeline is very short, which does not allow for use of current ammunition stock, nor reasonable time for restocking with alternative ammunition.

4-The phrase "lands contributing to NYC Water Supply" is undefined, vague and open to interpretation. There is no specific definition of these lands in the bill, nor definition in who will be the determinant of inclusion/exclusion, nor what the redress procedure will be for disputing inclusion/exclusion necessity.



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5-Without specific defined parcels of inclusion/exclusion, it will be confusing as to which lands are considered as "contributing to NYC Water Supply".

6-There are no species of wild game that would be shot on or over open water other than Waterfowl which is already under Federal prohibition.

7-Without reference to any supporting documentation, the proposed legislation draws on assumption that there is some sort of contamination linked to hunting ammunition on State Lands and Lands Contributing To NYC Water Supply". We are not aware of any documentation supporting that assumption nor the necessity of the proposed ban. Eagle population, is prolific and growing, bear population is over abundant, deer have been in abundant to over-abundant numbers until recent losses to viral infection. We are not aware of any study with data supporting any species suffering to lead ammunition in the ecosystem, nor any water reports supporting any contamination connected to lead ammunition in the proposed areas.

8-The alternative ammunition that would be required, if the proposed legislation were to pass, has a much more degrading fouling effect on the hunting firearms, causing much more "wear and tear", and shortening the usable life cycle of all hunting firearms and expediting degradation of precision capability especially for the rifled-barrel hunting firearms.

We feel that it is important to note that hunters have been labelled as takers and spoilers and not conservationists. It would be foolish to deny the label does not apply to a single person, but for the overwhelming majority this is not true. Most all hunters support training of safe practices, concern for environment, wildlife stocking programs and habitat improvement programs. And with very little exception, hunters treat the lands with reverence if only to preserve the opportunity for their own and for the next generation's continued use... And even to a higher level with hunters who depend on wild game as a source of food for their families.

Through license fees alone, hunters pay into the Conservation Fund, which is the largest pool of money that supports the conservation of lands and wildlife. The Conservation Fund has been tapped for many uses that have questionable connection to improving habitat and wildlife populations. We are not aware of any of these funds having been used to uncover or address any lead contamination set forth as a concern in the proposed legislation.

When there is a demonstrable threat to the ecosystem in the State Lands and Lands Contributing To NYC Water Supply, we will work with authorities and offer our support and assistance in producing appropriate legislation, and vocally support adherence to it. Currently, there is not a demonstrable threat.



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Therefore, as time is of the essence regarding further passage of the proposed legislation, we respectfully request your immediate assistance in stopping passage of this proposed legislation until these issues have been sufficiently addressed.

Additionally, we respectfully request a response stating your position and intended reaction to the proposed legislation.

Thank You,

Elmer LeSuer

Legislative Director – Federated Sportsmen's Clubs of Ulster County

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DELIVERED VIA EMAIL TO:

LEGISLATIVE / AGENCY

NYS Governor Kathy Hochul
NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
NYS Assembly Majority Leader Carl Heastie
NYS Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort
NYS Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay
NYS Senators Hinchey, Martucci, Oberacker, Skoufis
NYS Assembly Reps, Cahill, Jacobson, Miller, Tague
DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos
NYS CFAB Chair Jason Kemp Chair
NYS FWMaB Chair Bill Connors
Ulster County Exec Pat Ryan

ADVOCACY ORGS

NYS SC President Charles Parker
NYSRPA President Tom King
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